

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. For a blood component collection facility comprising a plurality of independently operable blood component collection instruments wherein a facility
5 operator administers one or more blood component collection procedures involving a donor, a system for networking the blood component collection facility, the system comprising:

a system server comprising a memory and a code segment, the code segment defining at least a portion of a blood component collection process; and

10 a communication conduit for operably connecting each of the plurality of blood component collection instruments to the system server, the communication conduit including a communication protocol for facilitating communication on the communication conduit between the system server and each of the blood collection instruments, wherein the system server receives blood component collection process
15 information from any of the plurality of blood component collection instruments and stores the information in the memory.

2. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:

the communication protocol being Ethernet;

20 a protocol converter being operably connected to the communication conduit between the blood component collection instrument and the system server for facilitating communication between the blood component collection instrument and the system server.

25 3. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:

the communication protocol being TCP/IP;

a protocol converter being operably connected to the communication conduit between the blood component collection instrument and the system server for facilitating communication between the blood component collection instrument and the system
30 server.

4. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:
an interface operably connected to the system server, the interface being capable
of transmitting information to the system server.

5 5. The system of Claim 4 wherein the interface is a wireless operator interface.

6. The system of Claim 5 wherein the wireless operator interface utilizes a radio
frequency to communicate with the system server.

10 7. The system of Claim 5 wherein the wireless operator interface comprises a
reader for entering an identifier associated with the blood component collection facility.

8. The system of Claim 7 wherein the reader comprises a touch pad for receiving
the identifier.

15 9. The system of Claim 8 wherein the identifier is an operator identifier.

10. The system of Claim 8 wherein the identifier is a blood component collection
instrument identifier.

20 11. The system of Claim 8 wherein the identifier is a blood component collection
kit identifier.

25 12. The system of Claim 7 wherein the reader comprises a keypad for receiving
an identifier being associated with the blood component collection facility.

13. The system of Claim 7 wherein the reader comprises an optical scanner for
receiving an identifier being associated with the blood component collection facility.

30 14. The system of Claim 7 wherein the reader comprises a magnetic scanner for
an identifier being associated with the blood component collection facility.

15. The system of Claim 5 wherein the wireless operator interface comprises a display unit for providing information about the blood component collection facility.

5 16. The system of Claim 7 wherein the wireless operator interface comprises a transmitter for transmitting an identifier associate with the blood component collection facility to the system server.

10 17. The system of Claim 5 further comprising a wireless access point being operably connected to the system server, the wireless access point facilitating communication between the wireless operator interface and the system server.

15 18. The system of Claim 4 wherein the interface is a management interface providing access to blood component collection facility information stored in the memory of the system server.

19. The system of Claim 18 wherein the management interface includes a display unit having a screen menu for providing blood collection facility information.

20 20. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:
a network server being operably connected to the system server;
a management interface being operably connected to the communication conduit,
the management interface providing access to the blood component collection facility;
a display unit being operably connected to the management interface;
25 a browser being operably connected to the management interface; and,
a web interface being operably connected to the system server for facilitating access to the system server.

30 21. The system of Claim 5 wherein the system server comprises:
a receiver for receiving information via a wireless communication signal from the operator interface wherein the system server stores the received information, the blood component collection process utilizing the stored information to monitor and control the

blood collection facility.

22. The system of Claim 1 further comprises an operator having an operator
5 identifier, wherein the operator interacts with the blood collection facility and
concomitantly utilizes the operator interface to transmit the operator identifier to the
system server to indicate the operator's involvement with the blood collection procedure.

23. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a blood component collection kit
10 having an blood component collection kit identifier, the blood component collection kit
for containing donated blood.

24. In a blood component collection facility comprising a plurality of blood
component collection instruments independently operable from one another and an
15 operator administering one or more blood component collection procedures involving a
donor, a method for networking the blood component collection facility, the method
comprising the steps of:

providing a system server having a memory and a program including a plurality
of segments defining at least a portion of a blood collection process;
20 providing a communication conduit for connecting the blood collection
instruments to the system server; and,
providing a communication protocol for facilitating communication on the
communication conduit, wherein the system server being capable of receiving blood
component collection process information from any of the blood component collection
25 instruments and storing the information in the memory.

25. The method of Claim 24 further comprising:
providing an interface having a reader for entering an identifier associated with
the blood collection facility; and,
30 providing a transmitter for transmitting the entered identifier to the system server
for utilizing the information with the blood component collection process.

26. The method of Claim 25 wherein the reader comprises a touch pad for receiving the identifier.

27. The method of Claim 25 wherein the reader comprises a keypad for receiving
5 the identifier.

28. The method of Claim 25 wherein the reader comprises an optical scanner for receiving the identifier.

10 29. The method of Claim 25 wherein the reader comprises a magnetic scanner for receiving the identifier.

30. The method of Claim 24 further comprising:
providing a network server being operably connected to the system server; and,
15 providing a web interface for facilitating access to the system server.